

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /059 W
----- 010405

R 100835Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8979

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 19271

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, TH

SUBJECT: ELECTION SITREP : SOUTH

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION AMEMBASSY BANGKOK FROM AMCONSUL SONGKHLA
09 DEC 74 IS REPEATED FOR UR INFO:

QUOTE:

SONGKHLA 042

1. PRELIMINWRY READING IS THAT DEMOCRATS, TRADITIONALLY
STRONG IN SOUTH, WILL CARRY GOOD PERCENTAGE OF 33 SEATS
AVAILABLE IN AREA'S 14 PROVINCES IN JANUARY ELECTION.
HOWEVER, SEATS LIKELY TO BE GAINED BY EX-GOVERNMENT PARTY
(UTPP) MP'S COULD EQUAL OR EXCEED THOSE OF DEMS IF THREE
UTPP REMAKES (SOCIAL JUSTICE, SOCIAL AGRARIAN, AND THAI
PEOPLE) COMBINE LIKELY WINNERS.

2. BREAKDOWN OF MP'S MOST LIKELY TO BE ELECTED AS OF TODAY:

N DEM	12 - 14
SOC-JUS	8 - 9
SOC-AG	3 - 4
TP	3 - 4
SAP	2 - 3
SOCIALISTS	2 - 3

3. SINCE RURAL AREAS HAVE BULK OF VOTE, LIKELY THAT MANY
OLD NAMES WILL BE ELECTED. RURAL PEOPLE ARE CONSERVATIVE
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AND LIKE FAMILIAR FACES -- CREDENTIALS FROM US OR BANGKOK

WILL NOT MEAN MUCH. CANDIDATES WELL AWARE OF THIS, AND FEW NEW NAMES ARE RUNNING: NEW FACES, YES -- BUT MOST OF THESE ARE RELATIVES OF PASO MP'Y, POPULAR DISTRICT OFFICERS OR MUSLIM RELIGIOUS LEADERS. FACT THAT THE MAN IS MUCH MORE IMPORTANT THAN HIS PARTY AFFILIATION IS BROUGHT HOME DURING CIRCUIT RIDING THROUGH PROVINCES: POSTERS SHOW PHOTO OF CANDIDATE LOOKING 10 - 20 YEARS YOUNGER THAN HE IS AND BEAR INITIALS RELATING MAN'S ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS, LODGE AFFILIATION AND VARIOUS CIVILIAN AND MILITARY RANKS. RARELY DOES A POSTER OUTSIDE OF THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL ANNOUNCE THE CANDIDATE'S PARTY.

4. OUTCOME COULD BE CHANGED IN CLOSING WEEKS OF CAMPAIGN IF LARGE AMOUNTS OF MONEY DISTRIBUTED, THEREBY HELPING UTPP REMAKES THE MOST. FINAL ELECTION TALLY ITSELF COULD PROVE MISLEADING, SINCE SEVERAL MP'S DOWN HERE HAVE HISTORY OF SWITCHING PARTIES AFTER BECOMING ELECTED. TEMPTATION WILL NOT BE AS STRONG AS IN PAST WHEN MANY WON AS INDEPENDENTS AND THEN SOLD THEMSELVES TO HIGHEST BIDDER. HOWEVER, SINCE MP'S POWER BASE IS MORE LIKELY TO BE HIS PERSONALITY RATHER THAN HIS PARTY, CHANGING SIDES AFTER JANUARY 26 SEEMS DISTINCT POSSIBILITY. AIRGRAM FOLLOWS. SIGNED CASTRODALE
UNQUOTE
MASTERS

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NNN

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